

were never expected to win, but they defeated the number 1, the number 2, and the number 4 seed teams by a combined score of 25-2.

So, Mr. Speaker, once again, I would just like to congratulate this hard-working team of student athletes, their coaches, and their parents for their State Championship win. This really does go to show that perseverance and hard work pay off.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONG KONG'S TRANSFER TO CHINA

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in 1984, before the United Kingdom handed Hong Kong over to China, the Chinese Government promised “a high degree of autonomy” for the territory in the Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong: providing for an independent executive, legislature, and judiciary; ensuring the freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion; prohibiting the central government from interfering into the affairs that Hong Kong administers on its own according to the Basic Law; and pledging a path to universal suffrage.

In 1997, when the handover occurred, America was hopeful that the people of Hong Kong would achieve the free, democratic future they deserved. But 2 decades later, we see China’s promise of “one country, two systems” is not being met. The Chinese have not honored that promise, and the British Government has ignored it.

Since 2014’s “Umbrella Revolution,” the people of Hong Kong have faced a barrage of unjust and harsh restrictions on their freedoms. Hong Kong’s pro-Beijing government is slapping democratically elected opposition lawmakers with expensive lawsuits in a backhanded attempt to disqualify them from their seats.

Peaceful activists are being rounded up and detained by the hundreds for exercising their right to protest the new government.

Five booksellers were abducted, smuggled across the border to China and forced to confess—so-called confess—their so-called crimes on national television, simply because their employer sold books critical of Beijing.

And, just this week, the democracy activists and heroes of the “Umbrella Movement,” Joshua Wong and Nathan Law, were arrested while peacefully protesting the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping, where they unfurled a banner in support of Liu Xiaobo.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend this body, especially our colleague, Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, for the resolution that he put forth earlier, a resolution that recognized Liu Xiaobo’s contribution to democratic freedoms as a global hero, and urging the Chinese Government to allow him to seek medical care wherever, including in the United States.

In mainland China, Mr. Speaker, the Chinese Government continues to jail journalists, human rights lawyers, those fighting to practice their own religion, and democracy activists at an alarming rate. And the Chinese Government is brutally trying to erase the religion, culture, and language of the Tibetan people.

America has a moral duty to speak out in defense of the legitimate political aspirations of the people of Hong Kong. If we do not speak out for human rights in China because of economic concerns, then we lose all moral authority to talk about human rights in any other place in the world.

As we mark this solemn 20th anniversary, we must stand up for all who are demanding the promises of “one country, two systems” be honored.

#### INTRO—JOINT DECLARATION

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—ensuring the freedom of speech, press, assembly and religion;

—prohibiting the central government from interfering in the affairs that Hong Kong administers on its own according to the Basic Law;

—and pledging a path to universal suffrage.

In 1997, when the handover occurred, America was hopeful that the people of Hong Kong would achieve the free, democratic future they deserved.

But two decades later, we see China’s promise of ‘one country, two systems’ is not being met. The Chinese have not honored that promise, and the British have ignored it.

#### RECENT CRACKDOWN

Since 2014’s ‘Umbrella Revolution,’ the people of Hong Kong have faced a barrage of unjust and harsh restrictions on their freedoms.

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Five booksellers were abducted, smuggled across the border to China and forced to confess their so-called crimes on national television—simply because their employer sold books critical of Beijing.

#### WONG ARREST

And, just this week, the democracy activists and heroes of the ‘Umbrella Movement,’ Joshua Wong and Nathan Law, were arrested while peacefully protesting the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping—where they unfurled a banner in support of Liu Xiaobo.

This egregious attempt at smothering free speech is alarming, illegal and deserves the swift condemnation of the international community.

We must honor the protestors’ chant—‘the world is watching’—and condemn the arrest of Wong and the other demonstrators.

Unfortunately, Beijing shows absolutely zero signs of ceasing its aggressive campaign of intimidation against democracy and human rights activists.

#### CLOSE

In Mainland China, the Chinese government continues to jail journalists, human rights lawyers, those fighting to practice their own religion and democracy activists at an alarming rate.

And the Chinese Government is brutally trying to erase the religion, culture and language of the Tibetan people.

America has a moral duty to speak out in defense of the legitimate political aspirations of the people of Hong Kong.

If we do not speak out for human rights in China because of economic concerns, then we lose all moral authority to talk about human rights in any other place in the world.

As we mark this solemn anniversary, we must stand up for all those who are demanding the promises of ‘one country, two systems’ be honored.

#### THE LAST BATTLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA

(Mr. FASO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, as we plan to celebrate Independence Day on the Fourth of July, it is important for us also to recognize a human rights tragedy and an abomination of democracy as totalitarian rulers of Venezuela are suppressing their people in our southern hemisphere.

To call attention to this tragic situation where thousands of people are being suppressed, where armed mobs are running around the streets intimidating people, and where Venezuelans cannot achieve the basic necessities of life, I include in the RECORD an article that recently appeared in The Wall Street Journal, “The Last Battle for Democracy in Venezuela,” and to call attention to the human rights tragedy which is occurring in South America.

[From The Wall Street Journal, June 23, 2017]

#### THE LAST BATTLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA

Under Nicolás Maduro, a country that had been one of Latin America’s wealthiest is having its democratic institutions shredded amid rising poverty and corruption

(By David Luhnow and José de Córdoba)

Almost two decades after Venezuela’s late president, Hugo Chávez, came to power in an electoral landslide, his country’s transformation seems to be taking an ominous new turn. A country that was once one of one America’s wealthiest is seeing its democratic institutions collapse, leading to levels of disease, hunger and dysfunction more often seen in war-torn nations than oil-rich ones.

Mr. Chávez’s successor, President Nicolás Maduro, has called for a National Constitutional Assembly to be elected on July 30 to draft a new constitution, in which ill-defined communal councils will take the place of Venezuela’s traditional governing institutions, such as state governments and the opposition-dominated Congress. The new assembly appears to be rigged to heavily represent groups that back the government.

The Maduro government says that the new assembly will find a peaceful way forward for